

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

Pulling Down Strongholds, Pt. 3

Thursday, April 21, 2022 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: *"Pulling Down Strongholds, Pt. 3"*

POINT 1

The disciples taught about the power and authority invested in the name of Jesus and they taught and preached the gospel – salvation through Jesus Christ. In every instance, receiving and acting on the word was what brought people out from under the dominion of Satan's strongholds.

Which leads us to: did Paul try to war with strongholds over cities? Let's see what Paul did as he traveled and came into contact with strongholds in certain cities. We should really examine what he did because he wrote 2/3 of the New Testament.

If pulling down strongholds over cities through warring tongues or screaming at devils is a scriptural practice, surely Paul said something about it, or he practiced it in the cities where he went.

When Paul as in the city of Damascus did, he try to pull down strongholds? After Pauls conversion, after he was filled with the Holy Ghost, after the scales fell from his eyes, he was led to Damascus.

READ: Acts 9:19-20, 22, 27, 29

And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

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Who did Paul focus his attention on in the city of Damascus? Let's keep reading:

*20 And straightway he **preached Christ** in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.*

22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

Jesus was the focus of Paul's teaching, not the devil and not strongholds.

He magnified and lifted up the name of Jesus Christ. Why? It's the Name of Jesus that breaks strongholds in people's thinking and in their lives. Paul taught people to exalt Jesus' power and majesty.

QUESTION

1. What was the focus of Paul's teaching? What did he preach and teach?

POINT 2

When believers teach others to concentrate on pulling down strongholds and warring against devils, once again the emphasis is on Satan and what he's doing. They are actually magnifying the devil, and that opens a door and gives him access.

But when believers magnify God, they **give him** access to their hearts and lives. Let's follow Paul as he travels throughout the cities and villages of that day. The first thing you will notice is that he established believers in the faith.

We see no scripture where Paul made it a point of warring against the devil.

QUESTION:

1. What is the difference between magnifying the Devil and magnifying God? Explain! What will be the result of either?

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POINT 3

READ: Acts 16:4-5

*And as they [Paul And Timothy] went through the cities, they delivered them the **decrees for to keep**, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. 5 And so were the churches **established in the faith, and increased in number daily.***

As believers were established in the faith, the bible says their numbers increased dailey. Wherever the word is preached, there's an increase of souls into the kingdom of God.

That's what life groups are all about; they are about establishing believers in the faith. We're going to see an increase of souls into the kingdom. As your faith increases so will your influence increase amongst those you're in contact with.

That's how to scripturally pull-down strongholds – the preaching of the gospel pulls them down in the people's lives by getting them saved..

QUESTION:

1. What are some ways to increase souls in the Kingdom of God? What effect will it have on their lives?

POINT 4

Let's follow Paul to the city of Philippi. Let's see if he tried to pull down strongholds over Philippi! This is important because as God send us out to other islands when we pray, we're not trying to pull down strongholds. No, when we pray, we're praying for the people to receive the word and the word will do the rest.

Now it was Philippi where Paul had to deal with a demon that was stirring up trouble through a young damsel.

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Read: Acts 16:16-18

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Now an evil spirit was using this woman to hinder the disciples from ministering in this city.

She had a spirit of divination or fortune telling, and the spirit in her knew who the disciples were. But notice that Paul only dealt with the spirit that was causing this woman to continually cry out and cause a disturbance – he didn't deal with any strongholds over the city.

QUESTION:

1. When Faced with a situation such as Paul how should we handle it? What should we attack first?

That woman followed the disciples many days, and the spirit in her proclaiming everywhere "...These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. There was nothing wrong with what she was saying so why didn't Paul immediately rebuke that foul spirit the very first day?

The reason he didn't is that the gift of discerning of spirits didn't operated when Paul wanted it to operate!

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:11

*But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally **as he will.***

This is important because until the operation of the gift of discerning of spirits came into manifestation, Paul was just as helpless as any of us would be to deal with that particular situation.

Paul waited until the Spirit of God gave him insight into the spiritual realm before he did anything about the evil spirit that was causing the disturbance.

You see, Paul wasn't just binding the evil spirits in his operation against him and the work of the gospel – he was casting an evil spirit out of a person. Paul had to have the anointing and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation to get the woman delivered of that demon.

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When the gift of discerning of spirits came into operation, Paul just spoke to the evil spirit operating through the woman.

Read: Acts 16:18: “...Paul, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out **the same hour**.”

It didn't take hours of yelling, screaming, and carrying on for Paul to cast the evil spirit out of her. And Paul didn't try to pull down the ruling spirit over philippi because of that incident.

Paul just spoke to the evil spirit in the name of Jesus and commanded it to come out, and it came out in the same hour.

QUESTION:

1. Why didn't Paul immediately cast that evil spirit out of that woman? What did it take to cast that evil spirit out and what didn't it take?

POINT 5

The key was that Paul waited, let's me say that again; Paul waited, what was he waiting for? He was waiting to hear from the Holy Spirit. Don't be too quick to act. Wait on the Holy Spirit to tell you what to do. Don't move on impulse. Paul waited until he had the insight of the holy spirit before he acted.

In other words, he dealt with the evil spirit when he was in the spirit – by the power and unction of the holy spirit and the results were.

The woman was delivered! We have to rely on the Holy Spirit just like Paul did especially in the times we are living in. Because there is a lot of demonic activity in the lives of people. Just because you see them twitching their head doesn't mean you spring into action.

No, just like Paul you have to wait for the unction and power of the Holy Spirit.

Why am I saying this? Because in some Christian circles today, people are doing a lot of hollering and shouting and yelling at the devil, and nothing's happening. That's because many people are trying to deal with the devil in the energy of the flesh.

It's the anointing or the power of the holy spirit that breaks the yoke of the devil's bondage:

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Read: Isaiah 10:27

And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

We are in that day! We are in that day where the anointing is going to come upon you and through you to remove that yoke off of someone's neck and destroy that yoke that had kept someone bound.

Like we found out last week, the anointing is on the Word, so you're not going to have any anointing to deal with the devil unless you've taken the time to sow the Word into your heart. And you're not going to have the power of God operating in your life unless you're a doer of the Word.

QUESTION:

1. What was the key to Paul's dealing with the evil spirit in this woman? What was his reaction? What should increase in our lives in order for us to get the anointing to cast out devils? Explain?

POINT 6

Today a lot Christians are not in the Word like they should be. They haven't taken the time to hide God's word in their hearts by studying, reading, and meditating on it, so they try to fight the devil in the energy of the flesh

It won't work! You can't fight the devil in the flesh shouting and carrying on. You're doing nothing but wearing yourself out.

Jesus says in: **John 3:6**, "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*" The devils and his host of demons are spirit beings.

That's why you can't deal with them in the energy of the flesh and win. The Body of Christ is going to have to realize they need to deal with things of the spirit realm by the Spirit of God with the Word of God.

Paul couldn't do any more than you or I can without the anointing! We are totally dependent upon the Word of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION

1. Explain why just shouting at the devil doesn't work? What do we need?

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Read: Mark 16:17, 20

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;***

*20 And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.***

What did Jesus tell the disciples about casting out devils? Did Jesus say he would confirm it with signs and wonders following when the disciples yelled at the devil in tongues?

Or did Jesus say he would confirm it with signs and wonders when his disciples taught their spiritual experience? No! The bible says Jesus worked with his disciples, confirming the Word they preached with signs following. He told them to preach the Word and the signs would follow.

Put the Word first and you won't have to worry about signs following – including casting our devils. One sign Jesus said would follow the Word is that believers would cast out devils in:

Read: Mark 16:17, “And these signs shall follow them that believe; *In my name shall they cast out devils.*”

QUESTION

1. What was Jesus teaching the disciples in this passage?

ALTAR CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

1) Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior:

- a. Some may have never received Jesus.
- b. You may be a good person, give to the poor, and serve in the community.
- c. Has there been a day where you confessed Jesus and Lord?

(Read Romans 10:9) If need to make this decision, raise your hand:

Repeat this prayer after me: *“I believe that Jesus is the son of God. I believe he died for me bearing my sins for me. I believe he rose from the dead and is alive right now. Dear Lord Jesus, come into my life now! Come into my heart now! I believe in my heart, and say with my mouth that Jesus Christ is my personal Lord as Savior. And I am, right now, born again.*”

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2) Rededicate your life:

- a. Is your life a mess? Are you struggling right now?
- b. You know something is just off in life?

(Read 1 John 1:9) If you want to be restored with God, raise your hand:

Now we want to take an opportunity to pray and to repent before God for any area you have sinned: *“Father, I come before you in the Name of Jesus asking for forgiveness ... (allow the person to personally speak to God about the specific thing they are repenting for). After they are finished, close out the prayer with them, thanking God for forgiveness and restoration.”*

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members

- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian and the ministerial staff.
 - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Join Covenant Partner’s Ministry for A Scavenger Hunt - *“Come Hunt with Me.”* **Friday, April 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** Join them for the word, light refreshments and a scavenger hunt. Invite a couple and bring a dish. For more information, please see Minister Lavern Oysterman or email: wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com.

2. Young Adults ages 18-35, on **Saturday, April 23 @12:00PM, IBC is going to be meeting up at Lindbergh Bay Beach for some pizza and fun in the sun!** Don’t forget to invite a friend! For

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more information, meet Min. Promise by the stage after service, call the church office at (340)774-8617, or email promisewalker7@gmail.com.

3. Join the VIP Silver Saints for a Saturday Matinee Movie on **Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 3:00 pm in the chapel at Word of Faith**. Come out and have some laughs, fellowship and popcorn. The movie is “A *Madef* Homecoming.” Invite a friend. Sign up in the back. For more information see Minister Irene Williams.
4. Join us for Membership Class, **Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 9:00am-1:00 pm** for more information or to register call the church office at (340) 774-8617.
5. Join us **Saturday, April 30th for our Beach Day Picnic at Magens Bay Beach, Shed #3**. Food and drink donations are needed.
 - a. Volunteers are need for set up and break down
 - b. Trucks are needed to transport item to the beach.
 - c. Volunteers are needed to serve food
 - d. Volunteers are needed to assist with games and others activities on the beach. To sign up see Minister Creque.

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
